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DRAFTED BY: AF/C: KCAISTON  
APPROVED BY: AF/C: RJFENDRICK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY

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E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: AMGT  
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

1. FOLLOWING THE UNHCR PRESS STATEMENTS ON REPORTS OF RPF ABUSES, KATE FARNSWORTH CALLED REGINA TOOLEY TO FIND OUT WHAT OUR RESPONSE WAS. YOU MAY WANT TO BRIEF THE LOCAL NGO COMMUNITY ON THIS ISSUE. FOLLOWING IS TODAY'S UPDATED PRESS GUIDANCE, WHICH YOU CAN DRAW ON IN ANY BRIEFINGS:

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT THE RPF HAS COMMITTED HUMAN RIGHTS ATROCITIES? WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

A. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF HARASSMENT AND REPRISALS BY RPF SOLDIERS AND RETURNING TUTSI REFUGEES AGAINST HUTUS, PARTICULARLY IN SOUTHEASTERN RWANDA. THE

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CONTINUED OUTFLOW OF REFUGEES TO TANZANIA HAS BEEN OF PARTICULAR CONCERN.

FROM THE TIME WE FIRST HEARD THESE REPORTS, WE URGED THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA TO INVESTIGATE AND TAKE NECESSARY ACTION. WE MADE THIS POINT BOTH THROUGH OUR EMBASSY IN KIGALI AND IN MEETINGS BETWEEN VISITING U.S. OFFICIALS AND RWANDAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE PRESIDENTIAL MISSION ALSO RAISED THESE REPORTS.

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THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT ASSURED US THAT REPRISALS ARE NOT THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SAID THEY BELIEVED THE ATTACKS WERE ISOLATED INCIDENTS AND THAT THEY WERE WORKING TO ENSURE DISCIPLINE WITHIN THE MILITARY.

SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION SUGGESTS THAT THE PROBLEM MAY BE MORE WIDESPREAD THAN ORIGINALLY REPORTED. THE UN IS INVESTIGATING AND IS CURRENTLY DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT. WE ARE DOING THE SAME.

UNDER SECRETARY WIRTH IS WINDING UP A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO RWANDA TODAY. ALONG WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICA, PRUDENCE BUSHNELL, HE RAISED OUR CONCERNS WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND URGED IMMEDIATE ACTION TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER AND TAKE STEPS TO PUT A HALT TO ANY ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AGREED THAT AN INVESTIGATION WAS REQUIRED, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS COOPERATING WITH THE UN IN THIS INVESTIGATION.

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WE ALSO DISCUSSED WITH UNAMIR THE NEED TO PLACE PEACEKEEPERS IN THE SOUTHEAST WHERE THE REPORTS OF ABUSES HAVE BEEN CENTERED. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE UN WILL DISPATCH A CONTINGENT TO THE AREA BEFORE THE END OF THE WEEK.

Q: OTHER THAN DEMARCHES, WHAT ELSE ARE THE U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY DOING TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM?

A: THE U.S. IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE UN TO COMPLETE DEPLOYMENT OF UNAMIR AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. THERE ARE ALREADY ABOUT 4,200 UNAMIR PERSONNEL IN RWANDA; THE 5,500 FORCE SHOULD BE FULLY DEPLOYED BY THE END OF THE MONTH.

IN ADDITION, WE ARE PUSHING TO HAVE THE UN COMPLETE DEPLOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE FIRST GROUP OF 25 SHOULD BE ON THE GROUND BY THE END OF THE MONTH.

THE U.S. HAS PLEDGED A VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION OF 750,000 AND HAS BEEN ASSISTING THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO EXPEDITE PLANNING AND RECRUITMENT OF MONITORS. THE UN

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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER'S PLAN OF ACTION INCLUDES APPROXIMATELY 150 MONITORS, FORENSICS EXPERTS, AND OTHER SPECIALISTS, AND THE UN WILL BE APPEALING FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THESE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.

WE ARE ALSO PRESSING FOR RAPID COMPLETION OF THE WORK OF THE UN COMMISSION OF EXPERTS AND SPEEDY ESTABLISHMENT OF A UN WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL TO BRING TO JUSTICE THOSE

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RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDE, WAR CRIMES, OR OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ATROCITIES. WE EXPECT THE COMMISSION TO COMPLETE ITS INTERIM REPORT IN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO, AND WE INTEND TO MOVE QUICKLY THEREAFTER IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH A TRIBUNAL.

Q: WOULD THE TRIBUNAL ALSO PROSECUTE CASES INVOLVING RPF ATTACKS?

A. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THE TRIBUNAL MUST BE EVEN-HANDED IN METING OUT JUSTICE AND THAT ALL PERSONS WHO HAVE COMMITTED VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN RWANDA SINCE APRIL -- REGARDLESS OF WHICH SIDE THEY MAY HAVE FOUGHT FOR OR SUPPORTED -- SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL.

Q: WHAT IMPLICATIONS DO THESE REPORTS HAVE ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN RWANDA?

A: WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT THAT OUR RELATIONS AND ASSISTANCE DEPEND ON SERIOUS EFFORTS BY THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT TO CREATE CONDITIONS THAT WILL PROMOTE REFUGEE RETURN, INTERNAL RECOVERY, AND, ULTIMATELY, NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

WE HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL ACT QUICKLY TO END THESE ATTACKS AND INVESTIGATE PAST INCIDENTS SO THAT INNOCENT LIVES ARE PROTECTED AND REFUGEES WILL FEEL SAFE TO RETURN. THIS WOULD ALLOW US TO CONTINUE DEVELOPING OUR RELATIONS AND ASSISTING THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND ITS PEOPLE

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TO RECOVER FROM THE WAR AND MOVE TO NATIONAL  
RECONCILIATION.

Q. IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGING REFUGEES TO  
RETURN? IF SO, WILL THESE REPORTS CAUSE YOU TO CHANGE  
THAT POLICY?

A. OUR POSITION ON THIS ISSUE HAS NOT CHANGED. FROM THE  
BEGINNING, WE HAVE SUPPORTED THE CREATION OF CONDITIONS  
IN RWANDA THAT WILL FACILITATE THE VOLUNTARY RETURN OF  
REFUGEES IN SAFETY.

WE OPPOSE INVOLUNTARY REPATRIATION AND DO NOT SUPPORT  
ENCOURAGING REFUGEE RETURN IF IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT  
REPATRIATION CAN BE DONE SAFELY.

OUR DEMARCHES TO THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE  
REPORTS OF ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS, AND THE DEPLOYMENT OF  
EXPANDED UNAMIR AND HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS, ARE INTENDED  
TO IMPROVE THE SECURITY SITUATION AND THEREBY FACILITATE  
SAFE, VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION.

(IF ASKED:)

Q: WHO IS DOING THE ATTACKING? DOES THIS REFLECT A  
POLICY OF THE NEW RWANDAN GOVERNMENT?

A: THE REPORTS ARE STILL BEING INVESTIGATED BUT THERE IS  
STRONG EVIDENCE THAT RPF TROOPS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED. WE  
DO NOT KNOW WITH CERTAINTY WHETHER THEY WERE ACTING ON  
THEIR OWN OR WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF ANYONE IN THE MILITARY  
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COMMAND OR GOVERNMENT.

2. WATER EQUIPMENT PROBLEM: I APPARENTLY WILL NOT GIVE  
YOU PERMISSION TO SIGN FOR THE EQUIPMENT. IT SEEMS YOU  
CAN AGREE TO HOLD IT FOR DOD, BUT YOU CAN'T SIGN FOR IT.  
WE MIGHT PURSUE A 506 DRAWDOWN IF YOU CAN PERSUADE UNHCR  
TO AGREE TO A PERMANENT TRANSFER. (IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE  
THE DRAWDOWN WOULD APPLY TO UNAMIR.) TO START THE  
DRAWDOWN PROCESS WOULD REQUIRE A FRONT CHANNEL CABLE FROM  
YOU SAYING UNHCR WANTS THE EQUIPMENT TRANSFERRED TO IT,  
WITH A LIST OF THE EQUIPMENT, AND YOUR RECOMMENDATION  
THAT WE DO A DRAWDOWN BASED ON THE DISASTER SITUATION IN

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RWANDA. PM PLANS TO SEND A FRONT CHANNEL ON THIS.

3. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.  
CHRISTOPHER

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